

MODES OF THE HOUR

The Ideas Dame Fashion Gives for December.

SOME NOTIONS IN BLOUSES

A Foretaste of the Glories of the Patriarch's Ball—Some of the Dresses in Preparation—Street Gowns.

When we people who write about fashion make any unusual effort to be practical we commonly succeed in leaving out just the one point on which you wish to be informed; and so I hesitate about launching into economics, ancient bodices and blouses for widowed skirts bereft of their mated waists, and yet I saw a tartan silk blouse the other morning that would work in handily in almost any young woman's wardrobe.

It was at an early committee meeting—how early you do have to begin in order to sandwich all your philanthropies and your educationalities in—and the young woman who wore it was dark, slim and curly haired. Her colors, naturally, were deep crimson, green, black and a



TWO DECEMBER NOVELTIES.

line of gold, and her blouse was long, reaching below the hips, belted, and frilled on the shoulders. The frill came down in a point to the rosette on her belt, and her sleeves were puffed to below the elbows.

The gown she wore it with was a fine black cloth with a narrow little black velvet ruche at the bottom, lined with tartan like the blouse, and flaring like all the newest skirts, six or eight yards round on the floor.

In such a costume a girl can't quite dance, but she can do a surprising proportion of all the other nice things of life that really tempt to the doing. A girl can dance and is very wise to dance in such another blouse as a young woman coaxed into life for herself the other day when the purse of pater familias curtly refused to yield up a new evening gown. A function was coming off; a toilet was an imperative necessity and so a scrap of pale gray blue silk, of delightfully soft, rich quality, was laid out upon the bed and looked at, thought about, dreamed of and pined over until, by dint of turnings, twistings and contrivings, inches enough were discovered in it and the odd corners of it for the putting together of a Russian sort of blouse bodice, gathered under a blue velvet belt and laid away in soft folds from the throat with a deep, turnover frill narrowing to the merest thread of a cascade at the waist line. Puffed sleeves were placed together out of scraps and remainders until they looked properly huge, and the blue ribbons that crossed them near the elbows were conveniently ornamental blinds for some of the seams.

With a huge bunch of winter roses the makeshift bodice was fine enough to stand on its dignity conscious of merit, and the "function" had no prettier girl at it than the one who promaded on the arm of the handsomest



THE NEWEST CAPE.

young man, she wearing a blue silk skirt left from a previous season and he wearing an absorbed smile.

A blouse to wear of an afternoon, or, indeed, to go to the office in, if you are a modern and advanced young woman, and have an office to go to, is of dark red silk—or it might just as easily be of blue—and is fitted quite closely to the figure, except for a loose fold or two in front. The blouse, skirts are full and a foot and a half in length, and the blouse belt is a broad band of red and gold galon. There is a galon collar, and the sleeves have gauntlets and above them long puffs broken in halves by galon bands.

An odd blouse, though I don't know that I am prepared to go so far as to say that it is an especially pretty one, is a long coat bodice coming almost to the knees and with its full front drawn over and fastened straight up and down on one side. As I saw it worn by so interesting a person as Miss Gless, the banker's daughter, who is coming out this season, it was of dark bluish gray corduroy velvet with a narrow edge of black feather trimming up and down and all around. Miss Gless wore a black ribbon belt, a gray cloth skirt and puffed gray sleeves with feather trimming about the long gauntlets.

I suppose it isn't fair to mix Baby Ruth up with a description of Mrs. Cleveland's blouses, but the temptation is upon me to quote the remarks of an unappreciative small boy who had the honor of an audience with that famous infant the other day and wasn't impressed at all favorably. "She's so thin," he said, "and 'traid to look a feller in the face and squawly; fat babies are nicer."

But of Mrs. Cleveland's blouse the small boy altogether approved. "It was all pink," he said, "and had lots of

coffee colored lace round the neck and more lace coming down over the hands."

The Patriarch's ball takes place Monday night, and the full corps de ballet of debutantes will be out with their gowns. Probably the prettiest thing that I have succeeded in getting sight of is a silvery white silk skirt with a bodice of exquisitely fine point de Venice lace laid in a succession of Vs in front and festooned about the low neck opening with a silvery lace dounce, depending from a broad ostrich feather band. Over the bosom and upon the shoulders are silvery ribbon rosettes with long loops and jeweled flowers to hold them. The bodice was sleeveless and the skirt edged simply with a white velvet roll.

The mate to this gown—to be worn by the sister of the young woman who ordered it from her own design—is a pale watery green silk Empire frock, dimpling like the sea under sunshine, and sweeping away in a train which once would not have been thought suitable for a girl in her first season. From under each arm starts a band of pearl embroidered silk, the two stripes crossing upon the bosom and ending each in a jeweled knot at its destination upon the opposite shoulder. The triangles cut by the bands are filled in with puffs of Italian lace, and a very full frill of the same cobwebby stuff outlines the low pointed bodice neck and stands up in fans against the short puffed sleeves. The end and aim so accomplished is a quaint little empire souve as fetching as you please.

For a young matron is a little white chiffon frock, whose sleeves are puffed from shoulder to wrist; each puff braceleted with a pearl embroidered ribbon. A high belt of white satin crosses the waist in front and lace cascades make a sort of fluffy boa and fall on either side of the loosely hanging draperies.

More novel if not more attractive is a dainty white mousseline dress embroidered with pale blue stars about the hem. The corsage has long pucker sleeves and an embroidered chemisette of muslin. A deep corselet belt of pale blue is fastened with a high silver



FOR THE PATRIARCH'S BALL.

buckle through which the sash passes. A pale blue ribbon is to be tied about the society bud's yellow curls.

To these I might add for the greater state and splendor of greater years a rich white satin dress embroidered with gold passementerie and arranged with pink velvet sleeves and a plaited collar of gold embroidered tulle.

I might add also a gown of gray ribbed velvet with bands of sable running round and about the skirt, and with a broad sable stripe framing the white shoulders.

But if I want a word about walking dresses now is the time to be saying it. You may not call white cloth good promenade material in muddy December, and the frock I am telling you about was meant to appear out of doors.

It was bordered with marten fur, and it had a changeable velvet bodice, round waisted and fastened with three big antique buttons. Over this it had a marten collar fastened with jetted cords.

More bearable from many points of view is a Russian costume of dark green cloth trimmed with seal skin and with cap and muff matching. The skirt is hemmed up with a silk ruche and the jacket bodice has green velvet lapels edged with fur.

More novel is an empire dress of old rose cloth, with a frill of black ruffled satin about the bottom. There is a deep rose-colored velvet belt and a full-gathered bodice of green silk tucked under a broad white silk chemisette to which is attached a high rolling white silk collar.

Scheduled to go with this toilet is a poke hat of green felt with rose-colored standing plumes.

On Broadway yesterday I happened to see a dark red and black striped velvet gown. The combination is one high in favor and in this instance worked most successfully. Two bands of plain black velvet bordered the skirt and the bodice was of plain black velvet with black hair bodice of green silk tucked under a broad white silk chemisette to which is attached a high rolling white silk collar.

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